

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
MEDICAL SCHOOL
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN GENETICS
1133 E. CATHERINE STREET

TELEPHONE:
ANN ARBOR, NORMANDY 3-1511
EXTENSION 2176

Dear Esther and Josh,

Hez has had a good time composing letters to you and I have just finished typing the "personal" letter for him. Thought I would add a note about my own setup. But first let me congratulate you on your "promotion" to a more stimulating research-oriented center. Especially with Kornberg, you will probably make gigantic strides which I cannot even envision.

Shortly after I settled here in July, Neel left for Japan on a two-year consanguinity study. He will return in March, but in the meantime I am not being driven into mutation rate studies, and other large-scale projects, and can spend my time reading and trying to catch up with the field which has left me hopelessly behind for 5 years while I learned such things as how to diagnose a placenta previa and never to sit on a patient's bed.

Schull and I are giving the 10-lecture course to the sophomore med students. (The course will be expanded to 30 lectures, beginning next year.) We are weaving genetic concepts into a synthesized story of the red blood cell, hoping that by the end of the course they will have a few ideas about the trends in modern research and a realization of the inadequacies of descriptive medicine. I have covered the types of inheritance patterns, penetrance, and linkage in describing abnormalities of size and shape of RBC (elliptocytosis, spherocytosis, Fanconi's anemia, and sex-linked anemia). Next will be abnormalities of hemoglobin synthesis (sickle-cell, C, and methemoglobinemia), then surface antigens (exposing them to a little population genetics) and intracellular enzyme defects (primaquine sensitivity). This was Schull's idea and I found it a little difficult to organize my lectures around someone else's idea, but am in favor of trying to limit our material instead of throwing THE BOOK at them as Neel has done in the past. From the three classes ~~xxxxxx~~ who have been given a medical genetics course, the comments have, in general, been negative.

Will you be giving a course in human genetics to Stanford med students or will they get a course from someone? What is the orientation of the course and the content? And how many hours?

I think your idea of leaving the genetic counseling and service up to the various departments with men who are genetically oriented is a good one if there were such men available. So far I have been unable to find such creatures at University Hospital with the notable exception of Falls in Ophthalmology. In the meantime, I carry out the "service" and answer the in-patient refers and most of the out-patient refers while Neel is away. This consumes about 1/4 of my time.

Wish we could get together. Correspondence is so inadequate. Can't you two fly over to Ann Arbor some weekend or for Thanksgiving? You are more mobile than we are since we work in different places and would have to get a baby-sitter. (Barbara just had her tenth birthday and is thinking of doing some baby-sitting herself). If you are tied down and we could get away when would it be convenient?

Sincerely,

Marge